

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT PINS PE  
SUBJ: ELECTORAL UPDATE

REF: (A) LIMA 2805, (B) LIMA 3483, (C) LIMA 2346, (D) LIMA 3600

SUMMARY: SINCE THE LAST REPORT, THE ELECTION PROSPECTS OF THE 12 PARTIES IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY RACE (REF A) HAVE NOT ALTERED DRAMATICALLY. HAYA DE LA TORRE'S APRA AND LUIS BEDOYA REYES' PPC REMAIN THE LEADING CONTENDERS. THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR THE ASSEMBLY (REF B) HAS HEIGHTENED POLITICIANS' INTEREST IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE VOTES OF FERNANDO BELAUNDE TERRY'S ACCION POPULAR SUPPORTERS (EXPECTED TO FAVOR PPC AND TO A LESSER EXTENT APRA) REMAINS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF (REF C). MOMENTUM TOWARDS ELECTIONS CONTINUES TO GROW. END SUMMARY.

1. APRA LEADERS HOPE TO ADD A SMALL PERCENTAGE TO THEIR "TRADITIONAL" TURNOUT OF ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTE AND BENEFIT BY AN ADDITIONAL 3 TO 5 PERCENT FROM AP VOTERS. TO THE DISMAY OF MANY OF THE MAJOR APRA CANDIDATES, HAYA DE LA TORRE CONTINUES HIS ALLUSIONS TO A GOP "INTENTION OF FRAUD." AN APRA DECLARATION OF APRIL 27 DETAILS THIS THESIS BUT UNEQUIVOCABLY COMMITS APRA TO PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION. HAYA'S MAJOR PREOCCUPATION SEEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO BE THAT THE PREFERENTIAL VOTE WILL RESULT IN BEDOYA REYES TAKING FIRST PLACE IN THE OVERALL "POPULARITY CONTEST".

2. APRA'S CHIEF COMPETITOR FOR AN ELECTORAL PLURALITY REMAINS THE POPULAR CHRISTIAN PARTY (PPC) LEADER LUIS BEDOYA REYES, WHO IS RUNNING A WELL-FINANCED AND EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN. A LIST OF BEDOYA'S FINANCIAL BACKERS HAS CLEARLY IDENTIFIED HIM WITH THE BIG

BUSINESS-PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SECTOR. (IT HAS ALSO RAISED THE FAINT ODOR OF ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG PPC'S CRITICS AS SOME OF BEDOYA'S MAJOR SUPPORTERS HAVE JEWISH NAMES.) HOWEVER, BEDOYA APPEARS CONVINCED THAT HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH CAPITALISM AND ACCUSATORY SPEECHES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE PERUVIAN "REVOLUTION" AND ITS MILITARY MANAGERS WILL BENEFIT HIS CAMPAIGN FOR CENTRIST SUPPORT. HIS WELL-ORGANIZED APPEARANCES OUTSIDE OF HIS LIMA/CALLAO BASE APPEARS TO BE JUSTIFYING HIS ANTI-GOVERNMENT STAND. HOWEVER, BEDOYA'S RECENT ASPIRATION TO CONTEST APRA FOR THE LARGEST PLURALITY HINGES IN GREAT PART ON HIS PICKING UP MOST OF THE AP VOTE.

3. MANY OBSERVERS AGREED THAT BEDOYA'S HOPES FOR AP SUPPORT ARE REALISTIC. HOWEVER, AP SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER ALVA ORLANDINI LAST WEEK UNEXPECTEDLY RECOMMENDED THAT AP SUPPORTERS CAST A BLANK BALLOT IN CONTRADICTION TO BELAUNDE'S EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT POPULISTAS VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE JUNE 4 (REF C). CONTACTED IN WASHINGTON BY TELEPHONE, BELAUNDE REPORTEDLY REITERATED TO LIMA JOURNALISTS HIS RECOMMENDATION AGAINST A BLANK VOTE. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, THIS ISSUE AND OTHERS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN AP'S RANKS UPON HIS RETURN TO LIMA.

4. THE SIX "MARXIST" PARTIES OF THE LEFT AND FAR LEFT (ACCORDING TO A SOMEWHAT DATED POLL PUBLISHED HERE APRIL 25), APPEAR TO BE DISPUTING ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTE. IN THE CASE OF THE PSR AND FOCEP, THE RETURN OF SOME OF THEIR CANDIDATES FROM EXILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(LIMA 3362) SEEMS TO HAVE AGGRAVATED INTERNAL CONFUSION MORE THAN STIMULATING THEM TO EFFECTIVE ACTION. PSR COUNTS HEAVILY ON THE NATIONAL CAMPESINO ORGANIZATION (CNA) AND WITH ITS SUPPORT MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE A SLIGHTLY MORE RESPECTABLE SHOWING THAN ITS PERFORMANCES TO DATE OTHERWISE SUGGEST. THE RETURN OF FOCEP'S HUGO BLANCO AND HIS ATTACKS ON THE INSTITUTION OF THE ARMED FORCES HAS NOT ONLY INCURRED GOP WRATH BUT ALSO EXACERBATED DIFFERENCES WITHIN THAT PARTY'S RANKS. THE MOSCOW LINE COMMUNISTS OF THE PCP FACE A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN DEEPENING SCHISMS WITHIN THEIR MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL ARM, THE COMMUNIST LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP). VARIOUS UNOFFICIAL POLLS, ESTIMATES AND GUESSES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE TOTAL LEFT VOTE WILL RANGE BETWEEN 15 TO 25 PERCENT. HOWEVER, ALMOST ALL SAMPLINGS ALSO INDICATE THAT ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE ALMOST 5 MILLION ELIGIBLE PERUVIAN VOTERS HAVE NOT YET DECIDED HOW THEY WILL VOTE.

5. THE GOP HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SERIOUS CAMPAIGN ON RADIO, TV AND PRESS TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE AND PROCESS OF THE JUNE 4 ELECTIONS. ITS EFFORTS SEEM TO BE PAYING OFF AS A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTERS IN RECENT POLLS DISPLAY MORE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ELECTION SYSTEM AND GENERAL ISSUES. THE MECHANICAL PROCESS OF PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING BALLOTS, SETTING UP

POLLING CENTERS, SELECTION OF ELECTORAL SUPERVISORS ALONG WITH PROPAGATING INFORMATION FOR ALL CITIZENS SEEMS TO BE PROCEEDING ON SCHEDULE. (IN FACT, THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION MAY BE ONE OF THE FEW GOP INSTITUTIONS PERFORMING ITS DUTIES EFFECTIVELY.) THE GOP CANCELLATION OF TWO ULTRA LEFT PARTIES' FREE RADIO AND TV TIME (REF D) HAS BEEN THE ONLY VARIATION FROM AN OTHERWISE EQUITABLE AND IMPARTIAL ADMINISTRATION OF CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES. (A GOP ELECTORAL COMMISSION SPOKESMAN APRIL 27 NOTED THAT THESE PARTIES HAD THE RIGHT TO APPEAL THE SUSPENSION OF THEIR FREE ACCESS TO THE MEDIA.)

6. COMMENT: ESTIMATES OF AP'S VOTING STRENGTH RANGE FROM 20 TO 30 PERCENT AND A DECISION OF AP TO VOTE A BLANK BALLOT WOULD CONSEQUENTLY IMPACT SHARPLY ON THE RELATIVE STANDINGS OF PPC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APRA. WE EXPECT BELAUNDE'S IMMINENT RETURN TO CLARIFY AP'S OFFICIAL STAND REGARDING THE JUNE 4 VOTES. MEANWHILE, THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS GENERATED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF SELF-MOMENTUM WHICH APPEARS UNLIKELY TO BE EASILY BROUGHT TO A HALT. DECONTROL 12/31/78. SHLAUDEMAM

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